



State of Utah

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DWS News Release

For 9:00 a.m. Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: July 2005

Utah's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for July registered 4.7 percent, down 0.6 percentage points from the unemployment rate of 5.3 percent registered a year ago in July 2004. Approximately 57,800 Utahns were unemployed in July 2005 as compared to 63,400 in July 2004. June's unemployment rate remains unrevised at 4.7 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the year-over change in the number of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs, registered 3.5 percent. This is a slight upward movement from the growth rates observed over the past several months. June's growth rate was revised up 0.1 percentage point to now register 3.4 percent.

Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services commented, "The energy price run-up threw a strong punch at the Utah economy, and the economy stood up to it pretty well. Higher energy prices did have the affect of keeping our growth rate from moving up into the 4-percent range, which seemed to be where our momentum was going to carry us. Though we didn't make it over 4 percent in employment growth, the economy is able to hold its own and not lose ground in the face of these significant energy increases. That's a testament to the current force of Utah's economic expansion. It makes you wonder where we would have gone if energy prices had not risen."

Since July 2004, the United States economy has added 2.1 million new jobs — a growth rate of 1.6 percent. Utah's economy added approximately 37,900 new jobs, a growth rate of 3.5 percent. The Utah additions represent about 1.8 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year.

Utah's employment expansion continues to be seen in all industries. Employment gains over the past year range from 500 in the natural resources classification to 8,800 in professional and business services. Nearly 70 percent of all the new jobs are attributed to four sectors — the previously mentioned professional and business services, construction, trade-transportation-utilities, and education and health services.

As mentioned, the most new jobs were added in professional and business services. As a whole, this sector pays about 14 percent higher than the average Utah wage. Not all jobs in this sector are high paying though. Some of the business services jobs are temporary help and placement-type positions, and they are generally not characterized by high pay. But they do make up less than half (42 percent) of the new jobs added in this classification. The remaining

majority are high-paying, professional, knowledge- and education-based jobs. That portion measures average wages around 55 percent higher than the overall Utah average wage.

Construction added 6,700 new jobs over the past year. That's a growth rate of 7.3 percent. Strong employment growth has been observed in this sector for well over a year now. Housing activity remains the key driver, and it doesn't appear to be giving any indication of slowing down. Housing activity has been going strong in Utah for several years. The interesting part is that it has only been within the past six to twelve months that Utah has seen any kind of noticeable housing price appreciation, unlike some of the significant and multi-year gains seen in some other metropolitan markets in this country.

Nonresidential construction has also been doing well. Its momentum began in 2004 and has carried nicely into 2005. It's a good reflection upon the business community's bullish outlook toward the Utah market. There are major projects underway, and there are others yet to begin. For example, the LDS Church's renovation plan for several blocks in downtown Salt Lake City has yet to get underway. To date, one office tower is getting a façade makeover, but the refurbishing of the two downtown malls and other announced projects have not yet begun. This is an anchor for future work, and will feed the current momentum, moving it through 2006 and beyond.

Since last July, the trade-transportation-utilities sector has added 6,500 new jobs. This is the largest employment sector in the state, standing at around 225,400 jobs, which is close to 20 percent of Utah's nonfarm employment total. Retail trade is the largest segment within this sector, employing around 135,700 workers. About 3,000 new retail trade jobs have developed over the last year. Another bright spot is the transportation segment. Air transportation employment is growing in Utah. Delta's restructuring has currently brought more jobs to Utah, with the closure of its Dallas hub and the transfer of portions of that operation to Salt Lake City. That, in turn, has allowed SkyWest Airlines to also expand its operations here, as it has a partnership with Delta Airlines.

The education and health services sector continues to grow. This sector was one of only three that did not experience an employment contraction during Utah's early 2000s recession. Jobs continue to be added, particularly on the healthcare side. Around 4,300 new jobs have been added over the past year. Hospitals, nursing and residential facilities, doctors' offices, social assistance — you name it in the health care industry — it has been adding new workers.

Manufacturing is a sector that people seem to focus upon. It was the backbone of the industrial economy that many of us grew up with, so there is still much attention cast its way. Fortunately, here in Utah, this sector is growing. Over the past year, roughly 2,000 new jobs have been added. This industry employs close to 118,000 workers in Utah. Manufacturing accounts for around 10 percent of all Utah employment, but this percentage is down from 13 percent seen five to ten years ago.

Utah's remaining industrial sectors have added new jobs over the past year. This ranges from 2,900 new jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector, to 500 each in natural resources and other services.

Utah's August employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2005.

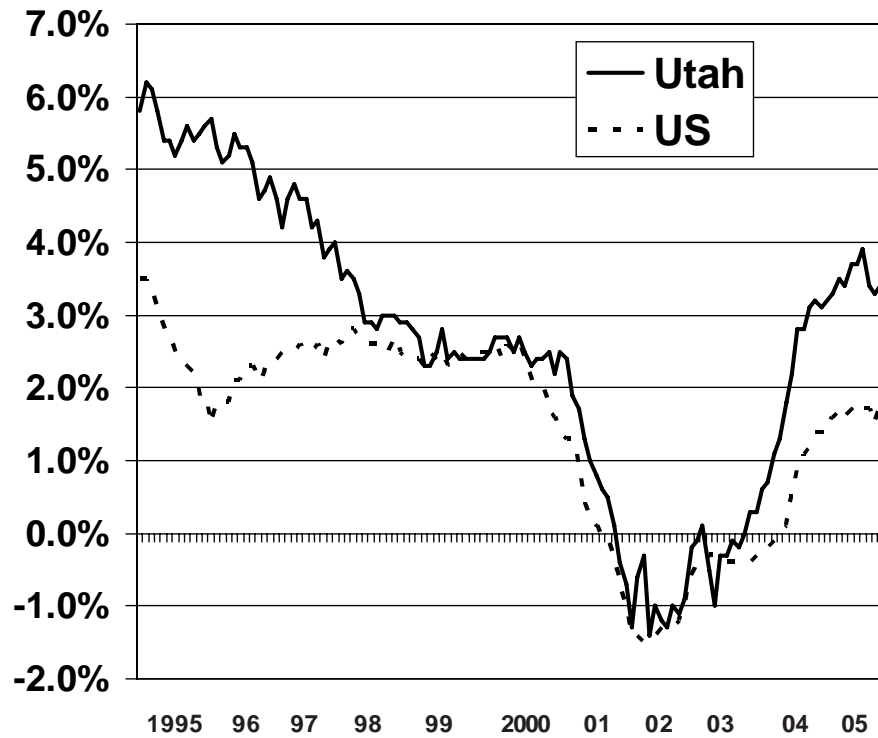
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Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

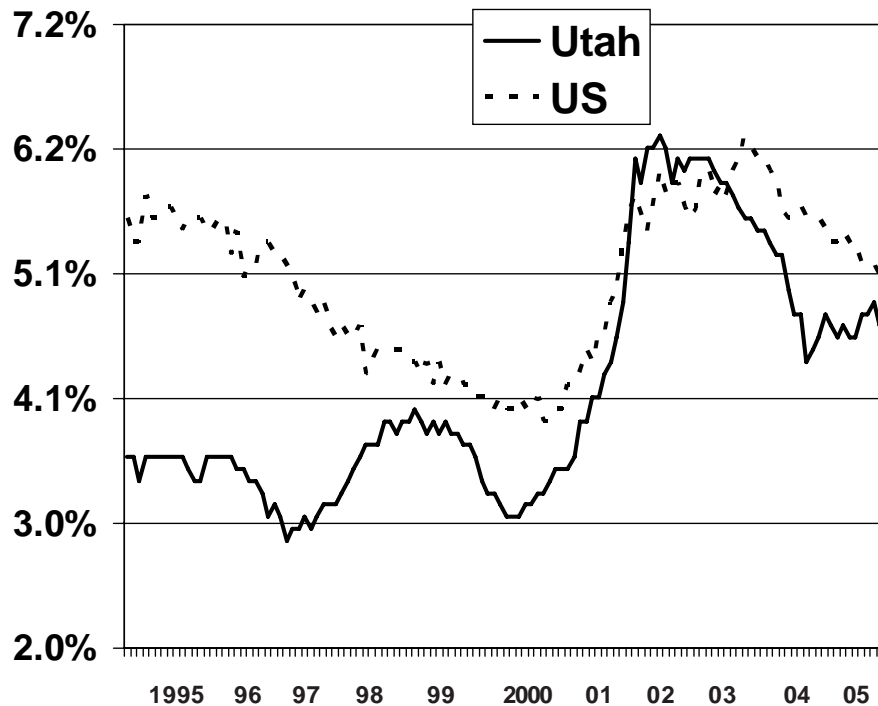
Numbers are in thousands and are not seasonally adjusted.	July(f) 2005	July 2004	Percentage Change	June(r) 2005	June 2004	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,249.7	1,208.7	3.4	1,244.7	1,195.2	4.1
Employed	1,191.2	1,141.2	4.4	1,183.9	1,134.1	4.4
Unemployed	58.5	67.5	-13.3	60.8	61.1	-0.5
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.6		4.9	5.1	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,135.3	1,097.4	3.5	1,147.4	1,110.0	3.4
GOODS PRODUCING	209.5	200.0	4.8	207.3	197.6	4.9
Natural Resources, and Mining	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.8	7.2	7.2
Construction	83.8	77.1	8.7	81.9	75.1	9.0
Construction of Buildings	18.0	16.9	6.9	17.7	16.5	7.4
Heavy and Civil Engineering	9.1	8.6		8.9	8.2	
Specialty Trade Contractors	56.7	51.7	9.7	55.3	50.4	9.7
Manufacturing	117.8	115.6	2.0	117.7	115.2	2.1
Durable Goods	78.1	76.2	2.6	78.0	75.8	2.9
Primary and Fabricated Metals	15.2	14.5	5.0	15.2	14.4	5.3
Computer and Electronic Products	11.0	10.9	1.2	11.0	10.9	1.0
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.3	13.8	3.1	14.3	13.9	2.7
Non-Durable Goods	39.7	39.4	0.7	39.6	39.4	0.6
Food Manufacturing	13.5	14.0	-3.7	13.5	14.0	-3.8
Printing and Related Support Activities	7.1	6.9	3.2	7.1	6.9	2.3
SERVICES PROVIDING	925.8	897.4	3.2	940.1	912.4	3.0
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	225.4	218.9	3.0	225.0	218.9	2.8
Wholesale Trade	42.5	41.3	2.9	42.6	41.5	2.6
Retail Trade	135.7	132.7	2.3	135.5	132.5	2.2
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.2	16.7	2.8	17.0	17.1	-0.4
Food and Beverage Stores	22.4	22.5	-0.1	22.2	22.3	-0.3
General Merchandise Stores	26.3	26.3	0.0	26.3	25.6	2.9
Transportation and Utilities	47.1	44.9	5.1	46.9	44.9	4.6
Utilities	3.9	3.9	0.6	3.9	3.9	0.3
Transportation & Warehousing	43.2	41.0	5.5	43.0	40.9	5.0
Air Transportation	6.5	5.9	9.8	6.5	6.0	8.3
Truck Transportation	17.8	17.5	1.7	18.1	17.2	5.2
Information	31.1	30.0	3.5	31.4	30.6	2.6
Publishing Industries	8.6	8.5	1.4	8.6	8.5	0.8
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.5	4.7	-4.1	4.8	4.7	2.7
Telecommunications	5.9	5.7	3.7	6.0	5.7	5.0
Internet Service Providers	8.0	6.9	15.5	7.8	7.1	9.6
Financial Activities	66.7	65.1	2.5	66.4	64.8	2.4
Finance and Insurance	50.6	49.6	1.9	50.5	49.6	1.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	16.1	15.5	4.2	15.9	15.2	4.2
Professional and Business Services	147.9	139.1	6.3	147.2	139.6	5.4
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54.3	50.8	6.8	54.0	51.1	5.8
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	10.7	10.2	4.8	10.6	10.1	4.9
Computer Systems Design and Related	11.3	10.9	4.1	11.2	10.8	3.4
Management of Companies and Enterprises	20.6	20.8	-1.1	20.5	20.8	-1.7
Administration & Support						
& Waste Management & Remediation	73.0	67.4	8.3	72.7	67.7	7.3
Employment Services	23.5	20.3	15.7	23.4	20.2	15.5
Business Support Services	16.8	16.3	2.9	16.9	16.6	2.0
Education and Health Services	124.1	119.8	3.6	124.9	120.7	3.5
Educational Services	24.9	23.7	4.7	25.6	24.4	4.8
Health Services and Social Assistance	99.2	96.0	3.3	99.3	96.3	3.1
Ambulatory Health Care Services	37.9	36.2	4.7	37.8	36.1	4.8
Hospitals	28.9	28.2	2.3	29.1	28.4	2.6
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	18.7	18.1	2.9	18.6	18.1	2.6
Social Assistance	13.8	13.5	2.1	13.8	13.7	0.5
Leisure and Hospitality	107.4	104.5	2.8	107.1	103.8	3.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	17.4	16.2	7.2	17.0	15.9	6.8
Accommodation and Food Services	90.0	88.3	2.0	90.1	87.9	2.6
Accommodation	17.6	17.2	2.1	17.3	16.7	3.8
Food Services and Drinking Places	72.5	71.1	2.0	72.8	71.2	2.3
Other Services	34.6	34.1	1.4	34.0	33.2	2.5
Government	188.7	185.9	1.5	204.1	200.7	1.7
Federal Government	35.0	35.1	-0.2	35.0	35.0	0.1
Federal Defense	16.3	15.9	2.1	16.2	15.8	2.6
Other Federal Government	18.8	19.2	-2.0	18.8	19.2	-1.9
State Government	59.6	57.7	3.2	61.0	59.4	2.7
State Schools	30.9	30.1	2.4	32.4	31.5	2.6
Other State Government	28.7	27.6	4.1	28.7	27.9	2.8
Local Government	94.1	93.1	1.0	108.1	106.4	1.6
Local Education	48.6	47.5	2.1	61.7	60.3	2.2
Other Local Government	45.5	45.6	-0.1	46.4	46.0	0.9

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised August 16, 2005

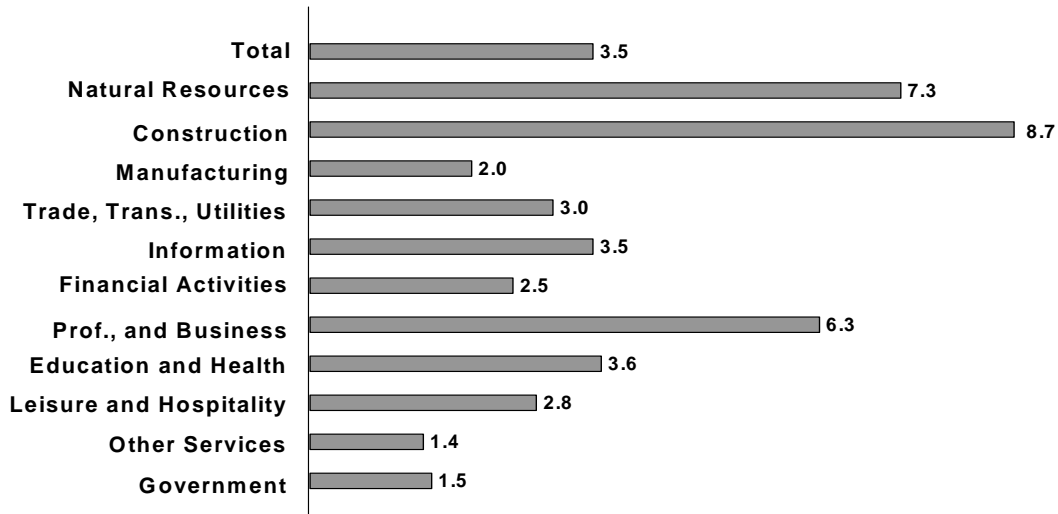
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

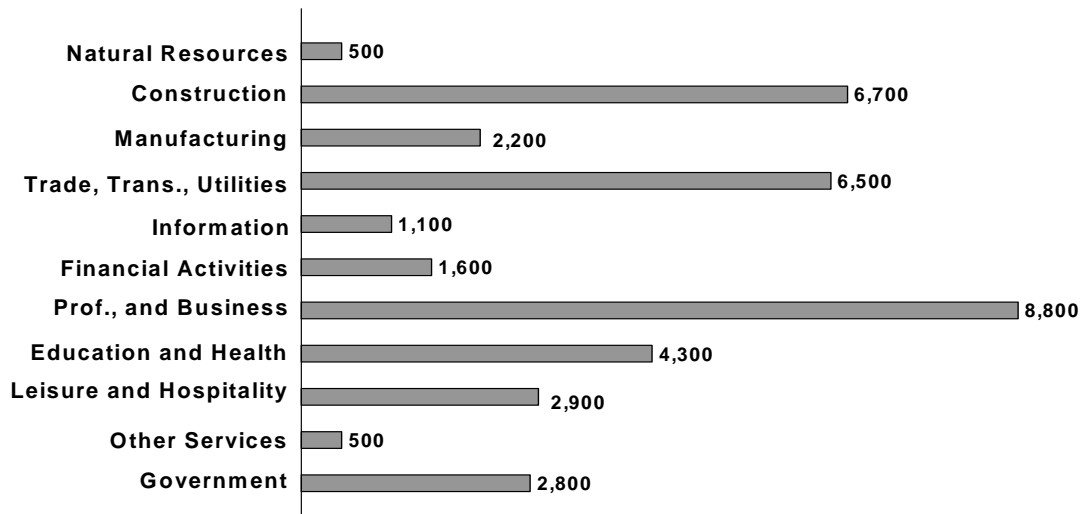


Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) July 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Numeric Change) July 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	July 2005(f)	July 2004	Percent Change	June 2005(r)	May 2005(r)
State Total	1,135,336	1,097,468	3.5	1,147,446	1,136,540
Bear River	64,143	62,708	2.3	66,774	65,483
Box Elder	18,146	18,304	-0.9	18,459	18,104
Cache	45,072	43,503	3.6	47,455	46,693
Rich	925	901	2.6	860	685
Wasatch Front	755,523	733,011	3.1	758,602	753,287
North	191,351	185,238	3.3	192,680	190,828
Davis	99,942	94,597	5.6	100,636	98,672
Morgan	2,050	1,944	5.4	2,087	2,036
Weber	89,359	88,697	0.7	89,957	90,120
South	564,172	547,773	3.0	565,921	562,460
Salt Lake	550,297	535,133	2.8	552,009	548,843
Tooele	13,875	12,640	9.8	13,912	13,617
Mountainland	185,093	177,415	4.3	188,095	185,900
Summit	17,662	16,440	7.4	17,181	16,240
Utah	161,728	155,800	3.8	165,038	163,905
Wasatch	5,702	5,175	10.2	5,876	5,755
Central	22,459	22,355	0.5	23,288	22,609
Juab	3,165	2,914	8.6	3,092	3,038
Millard	3,862	3,935	-1.9	3,877	3,731
Piute	337	319	5.5	366	341
Sanpete	6,298	6,324	-0.4	7,103	6,948
Sevier	7,620	7,721	-1.3	7,695	7,438
Wayne	1,178	1,142	3.1	1,155	1,114
Southwestern	68,574	64,210	6.8	70,114	69,706
Beaver	1,965	1,958	0.4	2,045	1,959
Garfield	2,773	2,599	6.7	2,728	2,473
Iron	14,608	13,693	6.7	15,185	15,535
Kane	3,290	3,189	3.2	3,368	3,156
Washington	45,937	42,771	7.4	46,788	46,584
Uintah Basin	18,119	16,871	7.4	18,718	18,127
Daggett	502	549	-8.6	501	462
Duchesne	5,968	5,506	8.4	6,138	5,849
Uintah	11,649	10,816	7.7	12,080	11,815
Southeastern	21,426	20,898	2.5	21,855	21,428
Carbon	8,540	8,286	3.1	8,886	8,733
Emery	3,832	3,890	-1.5	3,762	3,760
Grand	5,014	4,661	7.6	5,114	4,898
San Juan	4,041	4,061	-0.5	4,094	4,037

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 8/16/05